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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,457	04/14/2005	Toshihiro Yamamoto	HOK-0275	6641
23353	7590	11/16/2005		EXAMINER
				LEON, EDWIN A
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2833

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/531,457	Applicant(s)
Examiner	Art Unit Edwin A. León	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/05/9/05</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Centofante (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,108) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,421,737). With regard to Claims 1-4, Centofante (Figs. 1-4) discloses an adaptor for a memory card 500) having an insertion opening (104) at its one end, through which the memory card is housed in the adaptor, and configured to be connectable to a memory card slot of an electronic appliance (Column 3, Lines 26-34), the adaptor comprising: a base (103, 106) made of a resin material; a plurality of electrically conductive members (107) fixed to a surface of the base so as to electrically contact a plurality of terminals (inside 510) of the memory card inserted in the adapter; a cover (101, 102) made of a resin material; and a shell (114) held between the base and the cover, so that a memory-card storage room is provided by a space surrounded by the shell and the surface of the base, a projecting piece (122) is integrally formed with the shell, and the projecting piece is held between the base and the cover, a terminal element (116) is integrally formed with the shell, and the terminal element electrically contacts an

electrically conductive member for grounding fixed to the base, a pair of spring elements (110) are integrally formed with the shell, and the spring elements are engaged to concaves formed in both sides of the memory card when the memory card is inserted in the adaptor.

However, Centofante doesn't show the shell being a metal shell.

Chen et al. (Fig. 1) discloses a similar connector (10) having a metal shell (18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the adaptor of Centofante by having the shell made of metal as taught in Chen et al. in order to improve the strength of the adaptor.

With regard to Claim 13, Centofante (Figs. 1-4) discloses the electrically conductive members having first terminal portions (Fig. 1c) at their one end, which electrically contact terminals of the electronic appliance when the adaptor is inserted in the memory card slot, and second terminal portions (Fig. 1c) at their opposite end, which electrically contact terminals of the memory card when the memory card is housed in the adaptor, the second terminal portions are exposed in the memory-card storage room between the base and the metal shell, and the first terminal portions are accommodated between the base and the cover.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the metal shell being supported by the base to be movable in a seesaw fashion between an opening position where an insertion of the memory card in the memory-card storage room is enabled and a closing position where an ejection of the memory card from the memory-card storage room is disabled and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,641,441), Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,695,637), and Kuo (U.S. Patent No. 6,634,905) disclose connectors similar to Applicant's claimed invention.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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EAL
November 7, 2005